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REMARKS

- Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 30, 31, 33, and 42-44 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Hara, US Patent 5,772,020.
- Claims 11, 12, 21, 24, 36-38, and 41 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Chang, US Patent 5,823,573.
- Claim 40 is rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Rosinski III, US Patent 5,199,743.
- Claim 26 is rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Bergh et al, US Patent 5,713,683.
- Claims 34-35 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Zimmerman et al, US Patent 6,039,495.
- Claims 3, 4, 7-9, and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hara.
- Claims 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Chang.
- Claims 14, 18-23, 25, and 27-29 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

On May 6, 2003 applicants representative held a telephone interview with Examiner Fridie, Jr. The courtesy extended, and helpful suggestions made, by the Examiner are greatly appreciated.

The telephone interview focused on the Hara reference, with applicant's representative pointing out that groove 3, which is Hara's "holder arrangement that is formed within the page," and that is adapted to hold descriptive material,

- (a) does not have distinct, separate, holding spaces,
- (b) has no spaces (in plural) that are "in association" with respective storage-device-holding spaces, and
- (c) the attachment of groove 3 is not along more than one dimension.

The Examiner suggested that the word "distinct" in claim 1 be changed to "separate," and that the attachment along more than one dimension be clarified, such as with the phrase "in plane of the page." Additionally, since claim 15 is dependent on claim 14, and claim

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14 is objected to, the Examiner stated that applicant should consider claim 15 objected to (rather than rejected).

Claim 1 is amended according to the Examiner's suggestion and, consequently, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is now patentable over the Hara reference even more clearly than before. Since claims 2-5, and 30-32 depend on claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also patentable over the Hara reference.

Claim 6 is amended in conformance with the Examiner's suggestion to better focus the claim on the above-mentioned difference (a). Additionally, it is noted that claim 6 defines the 1 to 1 relationship between media-holding spaces and storage means-holding spaces more clearly than claim 1 does, thereby better focusing the claim on c difference (b). It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that amended claim 6, and claims 7-10, which depend on claim 6, are patentable over the Hara reference.

The rejection of claim 11 is respectfully traversed. In the previous Office action response, where claim 11 was rejected on identical grounds, applicant argued that the rejection was not clear enough (nevertheless responding to the rejection). In the instant Office action the Examiner clearly explains, stating that the "Chang discloses a first layer comprising a backing sheet, a second layer (1,2,3),(7,9) and a holder arrangement/cut out (8). The Examiner's explanatory comment is greatly appreciated.

Applicant agrees that the Chang reference has a page with a first layer, and a second layer, and that packets 1, 2, 3, and 9 are elements that can hold something. As for elements 7 and 8, the situation needs some explanatory comments. According to Chang (col.2, lines 9-11), element 7 is a "long pocket." Element 8, however, is **not** described as a packet. Rather, it is described as "an extra open edge" that is "designed for easy storage of a three, four, or five consecutive film set." (col. 2, lines 21-24). Thus, it appears that there is a pocket 7 that has a length extending from the top of the page to approximately 80% down the page, and this pocket can be accessed from the top opening, i.e., at the top of the page, or from opening 8, halfway down the pocket.

The Examiner considers element 8 the "holder arrangement/cutout." Since claim 11 refers to a holder arrangement, and does not refer to a cutout, it is assumed that, relative to claim 11, the Examiner asserts that element 8 is the holder arrangement.

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However, according to the unamended claim 11, the holder arrangement is something “that creates descriptive-matter-media-holding spaces.”

In applicant’s view, open edge 8 cannot correspond to the claim 11 holder arrangement because (a) it does not create descriptive-matter-media-holding spaces, and (b) focusing on the fact that the word “spaces” is plural, whatever open edge 8 does, is not in plural. Addressing point (a) applicant notes that the holding space that is relevant to open edge 8 is created by element 7 – and not by element 8. This space is accessible from the top of the page. Open edge 8 merely provides a second access to the bottom half of the space created by element 7. As for point (b), there is only one open edge 8 on the page – which is an integral part of the second layer – and therefore, open edge 8 does not create a plurality of anything. Certainly, it does not create a plurality of descriptive-media-holding spaces.

Because of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Chang does clearly not anticipate the unamended claim 11.

However, to expedite prosecution, claim 11 is amended to specify that the storage-device-holding elements are substantially identical in shape and size, and that the matter-media-holding spaces are substantially identical in shape and size but different in shape, size, or both, from the storage-device-holding elements. Since the Chang reference has only one pocket of the size of pocket 7, and only one pocket of the size of pocket 9, there are no “matter-media-holding” spaces (in plural) that are “substantially identical in shape and size, equal in number to number of said storage-device-holding elements, but different in shape, size, or both, from said storage-device-holding elements.” Hence the limitation added in amended claim 11 forms an additional reason to hold that claim 11 is neither anticipated nor made obvious by the Chang reference.

Since claim 11 is believed to be neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Chang, it follows that claims 12-13, 16-25, and 27-29, which depend on claim 11, are also neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Chang.

Claims 14, 18-23, 25, and 27-29 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14, 18, and 20 are amended herein to place them in independent form and, as amended, claims 14, 15, 18, 19, and 20-23 are believed to overcome the objection.

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It is believed that claims 26 was deleted in the previous Office Action response.

Claim 33, which is rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Hara, is amended herein in accord with the Examiner's suggestion relative to claim 1. The one-to-one correspondence between the two types of spaces is brought to sharp focus in claim 33 by the language "creates a separate descriptive-matter-media-holding space in association with each of the media-holding spaces." That is, each media holding space has one associated descriptive-matter-media-holding space, and therefore there is an equal number of the two types of spaces. It is respectfully submitted that the above-mentioned explicit limitations in claim 33 makes claim 33 not anticipated by the Hara reference.

To expedite prosecution, claims 34 and 35 are deleted herein.

Claim 36 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Chang reference. It is respectfully submitted that the Chang reference does NOT have an element that corresponds to the "layer element" of unamended claim 36, which has the following three attributes:

1. the element is affixed to the page,
2. the element is over the storage-device-holding spaces,
3. the element creates a plurality of pockets, where
4. each of the pockets are in spatial association with one of said storage-device-holding-holding spaces

It is noted that the Examiner has not pointed to any element that allegedly corresponds to the layer element of claim 36.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 36 is amended herein to specify explicitly that there are N storage-device-holding spaces, and N pockets, where N is greater than three, and that there is a 1 to 1 correspondence.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36 is patentable over Chang even in its unamended form, and certainly is patentable over Chang in its amended form, at least because Chang does not have more than three of two types of pockets on each page side. Since claim 36 is patentable over the Chang reference, it is respectfully submitted that claims 37-39, which depend on claim 36, are also patentable over the Chang reference.

Claims 40 and 41 are deleted.

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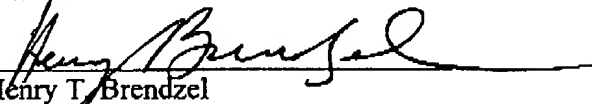
Claim 42 is amended herein in conformance with the Examiner's suggestions relative to claim 1 and, as amended, it is respectfully submitted that claim 42 is allowable.

Claims 43 and 44 are deleted.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully,
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Appendix – Marked Up Version showing Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A storage system comprising:
one or more pages, where each of the pages includes a front face and a back face,
and where each page of the pages includes at least
 - a) one or more storage-device-holding spaces adapted to hold a plurality of storage devices; and
 - b) a holder arrangement formed within the page₁ or attached to the page₁ along more than one direction in plane of the page, that creates [distinct] separate descriptive matter media-holding spaces₁ each in association with a respective one of said storage-device-holding spaces.
2. The storage system of claim 1 where each of said storage-device-holding spaces is a cavity that is accessible from a chosen face of said page.
3. The storage system of claim 2 said cavity is generally cylindrical.
4. The storage system of claim 2 where said cavity comprises a cylindrical cavity and an additional cavity that joins the cylindrical cavity.
5. The storage system of claim 1 where said one or more storage-device-holding spaces are formed from a single cavity within said page that is partitioned.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A storage system comprising:
one or more pages, where each of the pages includes a front face and a back face,
and where each page of the pages includes at least
 - a) one or more storage-device-holding spaces adapted to hold a plurality of storage devices, formed from a cavity within the page and an associated opening in the page that enables said cavity to accept said storage devices; and
 - b) a holder arrangement that creates separate descriptive matter media-holding spaces in 1 to 1 association with said storage-device-holding spaces.

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7. The storage system of claim 6 wherein each of said openings that are part of the storage-device-holding spaces has an elongated shape.

8. The storage system of claim 6 where the openings associated with cavities are in the shape of slits.

9. The storage system of claim 7 where said openings that have elongated shapes have their long dimension at a common angle, greater than zero and less than 90 degrees, with respect to an edge of said page.

10. (Previously Amended) The storage system of claim 6 wherein said holder arrangement comprises a second cavity in said page, with a plurality of descriptive-matter-media-holding openings in said page coupled to said second cavity, with each of said descriptive-matter-media-holding openings being in same spatial proximity to a different one of said storage-device-holding spaces.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage system including, *inter alia*, one or more pages, where each page of the pages comprises:

a first layer;

a second layer, substantially superimposed on, and attached to, said first layer, that includes a plurality of storage-device-holding elements of substantially identical in shape and size; and

a holder arrangement, constructed to be an integral part of said second layer or attached to said second layer along more than one direction, that creates descriptive-matter-media-holding spaces, said spaces being substantially identical in shape and size, equal in number to number of said storage-device-holding elements, but different in shape, size, or both, from said storage-device-holding elements.

12. The storage system of claim 11 where each of said storage-device-holding elements is a cutout in said second layer.

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13. The storage system of claim 12 where said cutout is generally circular.

14. (Currently Amended) [The storage system of claim 13 where said cutout comprises a circular cutout and] A storage system including, *inter alia*, one or more pages, where each page of the pages comprises:

a first layer;

a second layer, substantially superimposed on, and attached to, said first layer, that includes a plurality of storage-device-holding elements; and
a holder arrangement, constructed to be an integral part of said second layer or attached to said second layer along more than one direction, that creates descriptive-matter-media-holding spaces, where each of said storage-device-holding elements is a generally circular cutout in said second layer, with an additional cutout that joins the circular cutout.

15. The storage system of claim 14 where said additional cutout form a part of a second, generally circular, cutout.

16. The storage system of claim 12 where said cutout is an elongated, generally rectangular, or oval, slit.

17. The storage system of claim 11 where said holder arrangement includes a third layer that is affixed to said page over said storage-device-holding spaces to create a plurality of pockets, each of said pockets being in spatial association with one of said storage-device-holding spaces.

18. (Currently Amended) [The storage system of claim 17] A storage system including, *inter alia*, one or more pages, where each page of the pages comprises:

a first layer;

a second layer, substantially superimposed on, and attached to, said first layer, that includes a plurality of storage-device-holding elements; and

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a holder arrangement, constructed to be an integral part of said second layer or attached to said second layer along more than one direction, that creates descriptive-matter-media-holding spaces, where said holder arrangement includes a third layer that is affixed to said page over said storage-device-holding spaces to create a plurality of pockets, each of said pockets being in spatial association with one of said storage-device-holding spaces, and wherein each of said pages is in the shape of a rectangle, or a square, and said third layer is circular.

19. The storage system of claim 18 where said third layer is affixed to said second layer along four pair-wise substantially orthogonal directions emanating from a center region of said page.

20. (Currently Amended) [The storage system of claim 12] A storage system including, *inter alia*, one or more pages, where each page of the pages comprises:

a first layer;

a second layer, substantially superimposed on, and attached to, said first layer, that includes a plurality of storage-device-holding elements; and
a holder arrangement, constructed to be an integral part of said second layer or attached to said second layer along more than one direction, that creates descriptive-matter-media-holding spaces, wherein said holder arrangement comprises:

a third layer, attached to said second layer, that partially covers said cutouts; and
a fourth layer, attached to said third layer.

21. The storage system of claim 20 where said third layer is affixed to said second layer along four pair-wise substantially orthogonal directions from a center region of said second layer, and said fourth layer is affixed to said third layer along four pair-wise substantially orthogonal directions from said center region of said second layer

22. The storage system of claim 20 where said third layer and said fourth layer are discs.

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23. The storage system of claim 22 where diameter of the third layer disc is larger than the diameter of said fourth layer disc.

24. The storage system of claim 11 wherein said second layer is attached to said first layer to form a plurality of said storage-device-holding spaces, and wherein said second layer includes openings that provide access to said storage-device-holding spaces.

25. The storage system of claim 11 wherein said second layer includes openings, and said page includes a third layer, interposed between said first layer and said second layer, where said third layer is attached to said second layer to form a plurality of said storage-device-holding spaces in spatial association with said openings.

26. (Previously Deleted).

27. The storage system of claim 25 wherein said third layer comprises a plurality of separate pieces that are attached to said second layer to form said plurality of said storage-device-holding spaces.

28. The storage system of claim 27 wherein said holder arrangement includes a plurality of openings in said second layer, one for each of said storage-device-holding spaces.

29. The storage system of claim 11 wherein said holder arrangement means is a plurality of openings in said second layer, each of said openings being formed by cutting said second layer along a curve, or along at least two intersecting line segments, to form a flap, and folding the flap so as to position said flap between said first layer and said second layer.

30. The storage system of claim 1 further comprising:
a cover, and
a fastener for attaching said one or more pages to said cover.

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31. The storage system of claim 30 wherein said fastener allows the addition, or the removal, of one or more of said pages from said storage system.

32. The storage system of claim 1 where, in spatial proximity to each of said storage-device-holding spaces there is a marking to identify a particular storage device that is to be placed in said storage-device-holding space.

33. (Currently Amended) A storage system that includes at least one or more pages where each page of the pages comprises:

- a) one or more storage device-holding spaces, each of the spaces adapted to hold a storage device; and
- b) descriptions-holding means that creates a separate descriptive-matter-media-holding space in association with each of the media-holding spaces, characterized in that placement of a descriptive matter medium into a chosen descriptions-holding space of said plurality of descriptions-holding spaces is unhindered by the presence of a storage device in a media-holding space that is associated with said chosen descriptions -holding space, and further characterized in that the association of all of the descriptions-holding means with their respective media-holding spaces is substantially the same physical association.

Delete claims 34 - 35

36. (Currently Amended) A storage system comprising:

one or more pages where each of the pages includes

- a) [one or more] N storage-device-holding spaces adapted to hold a plurality of storage devices, where N is three or more; and
- b) a layer element that is affixed to said page, over said storage-device-holding spaces, to create [a plurality of] N pockets, each of said pockets being in readily apparent spatial association with a different one of said storage-device-holding spaces.

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37. The storage system of claim 36 wherein each of said pages is in the shape of a rectangle, or a square, and said layer element is circular.

38. The storage system of claim 37 where said layer element is affixed to said page along four pair-wise substantially orthogonal directions from a center region of said page.

39. The storage system of claim 36 where said layer element comprises four sub-elements that are attached to corners of said page.

Delete claims 40 – 41.

42. (Currently Amended) A storage system comprising:
one or more pages, where each of the pages includes a front face and a back face,
and where each page of the pages includes at least

- a) one or more storage-device-holding spaces adapted to hold a plurality of electronic storage devices; and
- b) a holder arrangement formed within the page, or attached to the page, along more than one direction in the plane of said page, that creates [distinct] separate descriptive matter media-holding spaces in 1-to-1 association with said storage-device-holding spaces, and substantially at the same physical association with said storage-device-holding spaces.

Delete claims 43 – 44.